Ms. Mary McGrory
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7/14/88

Dear Ms. McGrory,

First I must be honest with you. After I read the enclosed Nicaragua story in the local paper I phoned the Post, spoke to the foreign desk and was referred to John Goshko. I read him the marked quote from Ambassador Melton to this Congressional delegation sent by the White House. It states explicitly that the Reagan/ administration's intent is to "overthrow" the Nicaraguan government. Today's Post has almost a page, Goshko filed about a column and a half, and there is nothing other that the Reagan administration's line in the paper.

Mrs. Byron has been widely quoted but not a single word attributed to her even indicates what Melton told her and the others. Moreover, there was a State guide from Washington present, so State was well aware of this I think arrogant and stupid bit of atypical honesty.

Although it was safe enough in Managua for Mrs. Byron to go jogging, State has spent tax money for bullet-proof vans to taken these delegations around in.

This White-House picked delegation left Friday, July 8 and was home Sunday, July 10. What a thorough inspection!

And the embassy took the delegation, sans the women, to where violence was expectable. What a thing Reagan would have had if anyone of the delegation had been injured!

It really looks as though the whole thing was planned to coincide with this announced demonstration.

Mike Powell is managing editor of the morning Post and the evening News here. Mrs. Byron lives in Frederick. Her papers only were on the tour. Which seems a bit odd to me, all that trouble and cost for such limited local attention.

Unless something happened?

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg